

# **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY REPORT**

## **Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and Foundation**

**(EPA NEP Grant Agreement CE 96971401, 2007 – 2012)**

During the five and half-year EPA-NEP grant period, the Santa Monica Bay NEP, which is run by the partnership of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF), continued its mission to implement the CCMP (the Bay Restoration Plan). Funding provided by this grant was used primarily for supporting core program staff through a grant agreement with the SMBRF, which was leveraged with funding from state match as well as other sources to carry out the activities of the SMBRC. Specific staff activities were carried out in accordance with the work plans, which were developed and/or updated and approved by EPA Project Manager annually as part of the grant agreement.

Overall, throughout the grant period, the SMBRC/SMBRF partnership carried out the work plans through three primary ways (core functions): implementing pollution prevention and habitat restoration projects, facilitating and coordinating stakeholder activities, and overseeing program management. Significant staff efforts were devoted to the management and oversight of pollution control and habitat restoration projects through the Proposition 12, 50, and 84 grant programs. In addition, staff were engaged in developing and implementing long-term strategies for water quality improvement and natural resource and benefit protection, tracking implementation of the BRP, conducting public education and outreach programs, and ensuring the fiscal stewardship and program capacity of the Santa Monica Bay NEP. All these work plan activities have contributed to achieving the following goals identified in U.S. EPA's Strategic Plan:

- Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
- Goal 3: Land Preservation and Restoration
- Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems, and
- Goal 5: Compliance and Environmental Stewardship

The descriptions below summarizes key activities and accomplishments of the program staff and/or those which staff and stakeholders have initiated and/or leveraged utilizing NEP grant fund under the umbrella of the annual work plan. The summary is divided into five sections, each describes activities and accomplishment associated with one of the five overarching goals of the Work Plans.

- To make continued improvements in water quality and the health of the Bay's habitats and resources by effectively promoting and managing the implementation of pollution control, habitat restoration, and ecological assessment projects;

- To work with dischargers and other stakeholders toward collaborative programs that reduce negative environmental impacts on the Bay and increase compliance with the Clean Water Act and applicable state laws;
- To outreach to the public and policy-makers about the state of Santa Monica Bay, the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, and the ways the public can help improve the ecological health of the Bay;
- To monitor and assess the effectiveness of BRP implementation, both in terms of management actions and environmental improvements; and
- To improve the institutional mechanisms and program management of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

**1. Make continued improvements in water quality and the health of the Bay's habitats and resources by effectively promoting and managing the implementation of pollution control, habitat restoration, and ecological assessment projects**

*Implementation of Proposition 12, 50 and 84 grants Projects*

The SMBRC has been extraordinarily successful in securing state bond funding for implementing the BRP. In total \$63 million have been made available through Prop. 12, 50, and 84 bond funds since 2000 and projects funded with these bond funds have resulted in significant improvement in water quality, restoration of many habitats, better scientific understanding, as well as greater public awareness of the Bay's ecosystem. During this grant report period, the SMBRC continued to provide oversight of, and technical support for ongoing and new projects under these grant programs. All the existing and new projects were selected through a rigorous public process to ensure they meet the BRP objectives and address the BRP priorities adopted by the SMBRC and are consistent with U.S. EPA's Strategic Plan. Adequate oversight of these projects were also achieved through close coordination with State Coastal Conservancy and SWRCB staff and project proponents in preparing grant agreements, project execution, and project reporting. The tables (Table 1.a-c) below summarize the bond-funded projects that were on-going, initiated, and/or completed between 2007 and 2012. In total, \$12.21 million were allocated to carry out 20 new projects, and 26 projects (including 15 projects started prior to 2007) were completed during this grant reporting period.

In addition to awarding and management of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration bond fund program, staff also facilitated funding and implementation of priority projects under the State Clean Beaches Initiative which has resulted in the allocation of additional \$8M for pathogen reduction programs at Santa Monica Bay beaches.

**Table1a. Proposition 12 grant fund projects implemented between 2007 and 2012**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Ballona Outdoor Learning & Discovery (BOLD) Project	The project entails developing a design for restoration of an approx. 8-acre parcel at the SW corner of the Ballona wetlands. The design and restored area will showcase various habitats found at the wetlands for education and research purposes.	\$381,700.00	June, 2005	Mar., 2007
Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study	Prop. 12 funds will be used, together with funding from State Parks, The Wetlands Recovery Project, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to evaluate the potential for removing Rindge Dam on Malibu Creek.	\$375,000.00	Dec., 2002	On-going
Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase II	Implementation of the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Plan.	\$326,850.00	April, 2007	Jan., 2008
Madrona Marsh Restoration and Enhancement	This project entails expanding open-water habitat, establishing riparian vegetation, removing non-native species, cultivating native scrub plants, and distributing recycled water to the site.	\$780,000.00	Oct., 2008	Mar., 2012
Ballona Creek Litter Monitoring and Collection Project	Install up to 200 catch basin trash insert devices and several vortex separation systems to capture, characterize, and analyze the nature of the trash from eight different land use types in the Ballona Creek Watershed.	\$600,000.00	Aug., 2003	April, 2008
Redondo Beach Bluffs Pilot Restoration	Rehabilitate the beach bluff habitats along the South Bay by: cultivating native scrub plants at a new nursery at the SEA Lab; removing non-native species from the existing bluff; and re-establishing native vegetation.	\$144,238.00	June, 2005	Mar., 2007

Upper Topanga Creek Pond Turtle Habitat Restoration and Population Study	Biologists at the RCDSMM will capture, mark, and release individually-identified turtles. Their movements will be monitored to determine critical information about nest site selection preferences, habitat preferences, and reproductive behavior.	\$63,800.00	Oct., 2002	Mar., 2007
Kelp Restoration Project	Restore & monitor kelp communities at 9 restoration sites per year in the northern Bay and on the PV shelf. Project incl. designing & constructing a kelp mariculture system in which kelp sporophytes can be cultivated and later transplanted.	\$477,000.00	Jan., 2002	Mar., 2007
Ballona Creek Watershed Storm Water BMP Pilot Project	Identify priority sites w/in the Ballona Creek watershed that have high pollution potential (esp. re: those pollutants on the 303d list), identify and install appropriate stormwater BMPs at those sites, and monitor for pollutant removal efficiency.	\$3,000,000.00	June, 2003	On-hold
Wilshire Drain Diversion and Treatment	Installation of a two-stage Best Management Practice (BMP) treatment drain. This includes a primary screening separation process and a secondary sanitary sewer diversion and/or on-site treatment process.	\$500,000.00	Sept., 2007	June, 2008
Topanga Creek Rodeo Grounds Berm Removal	Remove a 1000-foot berm on the Rodeo Grounds parcel of the state-owned Lagoon, and restore 12 acres of the Lagoon.	\$500,000.00	Mar., 2007	Dec., 2008
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Solstice Creek	Removal of invasive vegetation	\$77,366.00	Oct., 2006	Mar., 2010
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Zuma Creek	Removal of invasive vegetation	\$113,398.00	Oct., 2006	Mar., 2010

Malibu Civic Center Urban Runoff Treatment Facility	Development of a storm water treatment facility in the city's Civic Center.	\$1,000,000.00	April, 2006	Sept., 2007
Ballona Creek Watershed Historical Ecology Study	Project includes historical research and GIS mapping work to study historical watershed characteristics that shape the current system and guide appropriate restoration work.	\$300,000.00	April, 2008	Mar., 2012
Ballona Creek Watershed Water Budget	Develop water budget for Ballona Creek watershed.	\$175,000.00	April, 2008	Mar., 2012
Ballona Greenway Plan	Project will result in final designs for portions of the Ballona Creek Greenway, including landscape guidelines for a Ballona-specific plant palette.	\$125,000.00	April, 2008	Sept., 2011
California Red-legged Frog Survey Project	Study the habitat of the California red-legged frog to assess recovery potential.	\$100,000.00	April, 2008	On-going
Beach Bluffs Restoration Project	Remove non-native vegetation and replace with native species.	\$200,000.00	April, 2008	April, 2012
Green Solution Project, Phase II	Continue development of methods to select and prioritize parcels for H2O quality improvement projects.	\$322,143.00	April, 2008	Mar., 2012
Stone Canyon Creek Restoration Project	Removal of invasive vegetation and replace with natives.	\$100,000.00	April, 2008	Mar., 2010
Point Vicente Fishing Access Bluff Habitat Restoration Project	Non-native vegetation removal and replacement with native coastal scrub.	\$189,656.00	April, 2008	April, 2012
McCarrell's Canyon Habitat Restoration Project	Non-native vegetation removal and replacement with native coastal scrub. Trail improvements.	\$78,476.00	April, 2008	April, 2012
Downspout Disconnection Program	Install devices at a min. of 600 properties to capture and infiltrate roof-top runoff.	\$1,000,000.00	April, 2008	Mar., 2010

**Table1b. Proposition 50 grant fund projects implemented between 2007 and 2012**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Ballona Creek Mid-City Pollution Control Retrofit	Design and install BMPs to address runoff pollutant in two dense residential neighborhoods adjacent to Ballona Creek. BMPs will include a vegetated filter strips and multi-stage treatment devices.	\$315,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Go Wild! Nativescaping at Schools	Installation of native habitat gardens at four school sites in the Ballona and Malibu creek watersheds.	\$321,342	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Malibu Lagoon Restoration	Project includes improving water circulation, providing critical habitat for endangered species such as Steelhead trout and Tidewater goby at a variety of water levels, removal non-native plants and restoring native vegetation.	\$3,000,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Low Flow Diversion at Boone Olive Pump Station	Design and construct a low-flow diversion system at the existing Boone-Olive Pump Station near Marina del Rey. Flows will be diverted to L.A. City's Hyperion treatment plant.	\$200,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Low Flow Diversion at 28th Street	The design and construction of a low-flow diversion system near the projection of 28th Street. Dry weather flows will be diverted to L.A. City's Hyperion treatment plant.	\$660,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Grand Avenue Tree Wells	Installation of fifteen Filtera storm water bioretention filtration Systems devices along the existing transportation corridors in the Venice area of Los Angeles.	\$350,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Baldwin Hills to Ballona Creek	Design and construction of a system to divert, treat, and beneficially reuse dry weather flow and first flush stormwater from the Baldwin Hills area to Ballona Creek.	\$2,000,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008

Permeable Beach Parking Lots	The proposal is to infiltrate all flows from several city-owned parking lots and traffic lanes through the use of pervious pavement technology.	\$900,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Bicknell Green St. Urban Runoff Treatment BMP Demo. Project	The project will reduce the area of impervious surface along Bicknell Ave by replacing original pavement with pervious pavers on each side of the street and two 12-foot wide biofilter swales with mulch and plantings.	\$450,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Sapphire Storm Drain Low Flow Diversion	Low flow diversion system that will include a pump station, gross pollutant removal system, and percolation system.	\$202,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Santa Monica Bay Watershed Catch Basin Trash Excluders	Design and installation of approximately 500 catch basin trash excluders along storm drains that discharge into Santa Monica Bay.	\$1,000,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Culver City's City-Wide Best Management Practices (BMP) Treatment train	A multi-tiered, city-wide BMP program, including catch basin inserts, trash and recycling receptacles, irrigation improvements, biofiltration swales, and water brooms, to reduce trash and other pollutants entering the Bay.	\$1,252,600	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Mar Vista Recreation Center Retrofit	The project will divert dry weather flows and the “first flush” from the Sawtelle Channel through a pretreatment system to screen for trash and sediment, and to an underground cistern for additional treatment, storage, and infiltration/beneficial reuse.	\$2,000,000	4/14/2005	3/1/2008
Chili Cook-Off Purchase	Purchase vacant land in the Civic Center area for construction of storm water / treated wastewater retention systems and habitat restoration.	\$2,500,000	4/14/2005	3/31/2011
Corral Canyon Purchase and Restoration	Purchase vacant land in the malibu area for pollution control/prevention and habitat restoration.	\$500,000	3/10/2008	3/31/2012

Phase 1 Arroyo Sequit Fish Barrier Removal - Planning and Design	Design and construction planning for the removal of two at-grade crossings and replacement with bridges on Arroyo Sequit Creek and the removal of a small check dam.	\$300,000	4/1/2011	12/31/2013
Phase 2 Arroyo Sequit Fish Barrier Removal - Implementation	Implement Phase 1 plans for the removal of two at-grade crossings and replacement with bridges on Arroyo Sequit Creek and the removal of a small check dam.	\$1,300,000	4/1/2011	12/31/2013

**Table1c. Proposition 84 grant fund projects implemented between 2007 and 2012**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Stormwater Basin Enhancement	Improvements to three detention basins to comply with wet and dry weather TMDLs for Santa Monica Bay, and benefit wildlife habitat.	\$3,337,500	6/1/2011	3/31/2013
Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration	Storm drain diversion to divert year-round dry-weather low flows from city storm drain system.	\$500,000	6/1/2011	3/31/2013
Ballona Creek Trash Total Maximum Daily Load Catch Basin Inserts	Install full capture catch basin inserts within the Ballona Creek Watershed in the City of Inglewood	\$205,000	6/1/2011	3/31/2013
In-line Storm Drain Runoff Infiltration Demo Project	Install stand-alone treatment and infiltration systems within existing storm drains and catch basins to reduce pollutants entering SMB.	\$300,000	5/10/2012	9/30/2014
University Park Rain Gardens	Install a minimum of 35 rain gardens in the University Park area of Los Angeles.	\$510,000	TBD	TBD
Trash Basin Project	Install full capture trash excluders on all public streets in the City of Calabasas in the Malibu Creek watershed.	\$168,000	5/22/2012	3/31/2013



### *Development of new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation*

The SMBRC has also initiated development of a five-year financing strategy aimed at addressing existing and future financial challenges. Working with consultants, staff conducted financial planning session during the staff retreat and explored and analyzed the need for developing short-term and long-term financial objectives and actions, and funding and partnership opportunities to maintain and increase the SMBRC and Foundation's revenue. A workgroup of the Executive Committee was also formed to guide and advise the planning effort. Working with the EC, Board of the Directors of the SMBRF, consultant, staff further developed a fundraising model based on member annual contribution to the Bay Restoration Foundation for increasing the SMBRF's cash reserve, and worked on developing an outreach package for the purpose of corporation fundraising.

The SMBRC successfully applied and obtained several new sources of grant funding during this grant reporting period, including federal ARRA funding for rain garden project, NOAA MSRP funding for rocky subtidal habitat restoration and NOAA funding for abalone research, State Coastal Conservancy funding for Ballona Wetlands baseline monitoring and restoration planning, RLFF funding for Marine Protected Area outreach and monitoring, EPA Wetland Development Grant, and EPA Climate Ready Estuary Program grant. These successes can be contributed largely to the close partnerships that the SMBRC established with the funding agencies over the last decade or longer.

### *Establishment of Marine Protected Area(s) in Santa Monica Bay*

Recognizing the urgent need for implementing marine resource protection measures in Santa Monica Bay, SMBRC staff actively participated in the State Marine Life Protection Act stakeholder process that the State initiated in 2008 and carried out in Southern California during the rest of this grant report period. The process resulted in the designation of a network of MPAs in Southern California Bight, including two in Santa Monica Bay.

In anticipation of the MLPA process in Southern California, SMBRC convened a Marine Protected Areas Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and obtained funding support from OPC/State Coastal Conservancy and conducted a marine habitat data gap analysis project. SMBRC also initiated and implemented a project to collect baseline economic value information on non-consumptive uses of the Bay and held a three-day economic valuation workshop (9/9 -9/11) which was participated by renowned economists and state MLPA staff.

In addition to participation on Southern California Regional Stakeholder Group to develop proposal for SC MPA Network and attending and providing comment at FGC regulatory meetings, SMBRC staff also conducted extensive outreach, including giving presentations about MLPA and the benefits of MPAs, meeting with public officials to discuss MPAs, discussing the MPA process with local newspapers, and working with the members of the SMBRC Governing Board to pass resolutions supporting MPAs with high conservation value in the Santa Monica Bay.

After completion of the stakeholder process, staff has first worked on developing a proposal for monitoring MPAs in Southern California in coordination with the MPA Monitoring Enterprise, Department of Fish and Game, the SMBRC's Marine Resources Advisory

Committee, and local stakeholders, and later participated in MPA monitoring conducted in Santa Monica Bay.

To aid the DFG in designating MPAs and enforcing MPA regulation, the SMBRC initiated an ocean vessel aerial monitoring project in 2008. The project documented the location, type and activity of ocean vessels operating in state waters with the purpose of informing the south coast Marine Life Protection Act Initiative with a fishery independent data set on the expanse and type of fishing effort in Southern California. A subset of these data were incorporated into marine map, by CADFG personnel, and used by the stakeholder process in designating a network of MPAs. The second phase of the project was initiated in 2012. Data collected during this phase will be compared to pre MPA data collected in state waters to describe trends and responses by the fishing community and others, resulting from the newly established network of MPAs and to aid DFG in improving the effectiveness of MPA enforcement throughout southern California.

#### *Kelp and Fishery Restoration*

SMBRC continued its long-running, successful kelp restoration project. Kelp restoration effort will be expanded significantly with new funding secured from MSRP during this reporting period. The MSRP-funded kelp restoration project will for the first time involve local fishermen to carry out substantial kelp restoration on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. SMBRC also initiated and conducted research on sea urchin gonad indicator in relation to kelp forests and urchin barrens.

To facilitate local recovery of green and pink abalone; (*Haliotis fulgens* and *Haliotis corrugata* respectively) the SMBRC obtained grant funding and initiated research on abalone population level genetic and development of disease prevention protocols. SMBRC staff were also involved in stock assessment of California halibut and spiny lobster and explored potential research partnership with DFG, and initiated work with local commercial fishermen to promote potential local seafood market.

## **2. Work with dischargers and other stakeholders toward collaborative programs that reduce negative environmental impacts on the Bay and increase compliance with the Clean Water Act and applicable state laws**

#### *Bay Restoration Plan Update*

The 2008 BRP Update, which is the first major update of the BRP since its original approval in 1995 was approved by a unanimous vote of the Governing Board at its meeting on December 18, 2008. The update process began in mid-2007 and over the course of the next 18 months, staff conducted a thorough “check-up” of our progress on implementing the original BRP, and an update with major revisions that better reflect current status and needs in the Bay. Staff did this through an iterative process with active participation from members of the Governing Board and the public. Staff organized and facilitated strategic planning sessions, including including a retreat of the Executive Committee, a GB workshop, targeted outreach – via meetings, phone calls and emails to individual GB members and other

stakeholders for feedback on BRP items that are of particular interest to them, as well as a public workshop to solicit stakeholder input on Bay restoration priorities over the next five years, and developed and utilized an online tool to receive public input in the form of a wiki.

The results of this process are two documents: the 1995 BRP Check-Up and the 2008 BRP Update. The 1995 BRP Check-Up is a section-by-section examination of the progress the SMBRP/SMBRC has made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the original 1995 BRP. It provides a summary and evaluation of the status of implementation, remaining gaps and roadblocks, and next steps as related to the new BRP update for all 89 major action items in the existing BRP. The new BRP, on the other hand, reflects the consensus of all SMBRC partners on the best approaches and strategies to ensure progress toward Bay restoration in the coming decades. With 14 goals, 66 objectives, and 166 milestones, it is a comprehensive plan that meets the broad and complex issues and challenges the Bay still faces.

#### *Facilitation of water quality regulations development and implementation*

One overarching goal of the BRP is to ensure that SMBRC activities and projects contribute to the achievement of water quality standards at all waterbodies in the Bay and the Bay watershed. To achieve this goal, SMBRC made helping to achieve TMDLs a key criteria in evaluating project proposals. As a result, SMBRC has awarded of millions of dollars in grant funding for storm water pollution reduction projects to specifically help local municipalities meet storm water permit requirements and the goals of the trash, pathogen, and metal TMDLs in our local waterbodies.

In addition, SMBRC worked closely with EPA Region 9, State Water Board, and Los Angeles Regional Board in facilitating development and implementation of TMDLs, NPDES permits, wastewater discharge permits, and other water quality regulatory tools. Specific activities during this grant period included:

- Ballona Creek Hydromodification TMDL – Provided technical information to EPA Region 9 on development of Ballona Wetlands hydromodification TMDL.
- Ballona Creek/Estuary Toxics TMDL – Coordinated with the City of Los Angeles for monitoring toxics within the Ballona Creek Estuary. Reviewed LA City monitoring methods and data and provided data collected by SMBRC staff within the Ballona Wetlands and Ballona Creek Estuary. In addition, conducted sediment sampling and analysis in cooperation with and utilizing the services provided by the LARWQCB.
- Santa Monica Bay Marine Debris TMDL – Co-hosted (with Regional Board) a stakeholders meeting to introduce the process for development of the Santa Monica Bay Marine Debris TMDL. Discussed and provided input to staff at the LARWQCB on the proposed Santa Monica Bay marine debris TMDL.
- Malibu Septics Prohibition – Assisted with Regional Board groundwater permitting staff with the knowledge of, and data collected by SMBRC staff for developing the Regional Board's technical memo. Provided written and gave verbal comments at Regional Board meeting, supporting Malibu Septics Prohibition which was approved by RB4 on Nov. 5, 2010.

- Invasive Species – Worked with Santa Monica Baykeeper and Regional Board staff to develop comments and review proposed language for several listings on the State 303(d) list for Invasive Species (NZ mudsnails) and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments. Submitted application and supporting materials to State Water Board requesting that Malibu Creek and Trancas Creek be placed on the 303d list for invasive species (Louisiana red swamp crayfish). The Regional Board approved the staff report and adopted the listings at its July 2009 meeting.

#### Restoration of priority wetlands

During this grant reporting period, the SMBRC has increasingly played an active and critical role in restoring the two top priority wetlands in the Bay watershed: the Ballona Wetlands and the Malibu Lagoon.

**Ballona Wetlands** – Restoration of Ballona Wetlands has been a top priority of the SMBRC for many years. Significant progress has been made in the last ten years, most notably through the acquisition of Ballona Wetlands by the State of California and the initiation of the restoration planning process. The development of the Ballona Wetlands restoration plan is a multi-year process SMBRC works closely with the lead agency, the State Coastal Conservancy, to facilitate an inclusive, participatory process involving many stakeholders. This is done largely by the State Coastal Conservancy funding of staff for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Local Program which is supervised and supported administratively by SMBRC.

Under this collaborative partnership, the SMBRC took on the local leadership in coordinating the restoration planning of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Major tasks and activities include:

- Led and conducted a multi-year comprehensive Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program which included comprehensive surveys of biological, chemical and physical processes of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Assisted in development of monitoring protocols.
- Participated in technical feasibility studies and development of restoration engineering plans.
- Led and coordinated Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Management Team meetings.
- Coordinated the development and public review of the CEQA/NEPA documents and permit applications.

In addition, based on the results of the baseline assessment, the SMBRC moved forward in FY 12 and initiated the development of a Tier 3 long-term monitoring program for the wetland habitats. With grant awarded from the U.S. EPA Wetland Development Grant, the SMBRC has teamed up with SCCWRP to demonstrate and carry out Level 3 monitoring as defined under the Integrated Wetlands Regional Assessment Program (IWRAP).

***Malibu Lagoon*** - The SMBRC coordinated Phase 2 wetland restoration activities. Staff helped integrate design and technical elements of the wetland restoration recommended by Project Team, permitting agencies and State Parks regarding ADA access, fire codes, and building construction. Worked with Coastal Commission staff and scheduled the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) hearing on the October Coastal Commission meeting agenda, and conducted extensive outreach to Coastal Commission Commissioners on the technical aspects of the proposed restoration project. Staff also assisted state parks with RFP for construction and seed collection/plant propagation, and refined monitoring plan per Coastal Commission comments.

Construction on Malibu Lagoon was temporarily delayed due to litigation of the Coastal Development Permit issued by the Coastal Commission. An injunction was issued in May of 2011 to prevent construction from occurring. The Court issued its ruling dismissed the legal challenge in December 2011 and the construction was rescheduled to begin in June 2012. While the project was on hold, staff continued public outreach to diffuse misinformation and boost report to the restoration project.

#### *Facilitation of Comprehensive Water Resource Management*

***IRWMP*** - Executive Director Shelley Luce and staff continued to participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) process for the greater Los Angeles region by serving on the IRWMP as an elected member of the IRWMP Leadership Committee. Shelley also chaired and coordinated the meetings of the Open Space Subcommittee. In that capacity, the SMBRC facilitated the incorporation of open space and habitat restoration into the IRWMP, and monitored state bond funding and projects aimed at providing multiple water resource enhancement benefits in the region.

***Green Solution Facilitation*** - Green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) practices are being increasingly used as an effective tool to capture and infiltrate storm water on-site. In addition to improving surface water quality, these practices also provide multiple benefits including creation of native habitat, beautification of the urban landscape, and reduction of outdoor water use for irrigation, etc. During this grant reporting period, the SMBRC sponsored and completed Phase I and Phase II of the Green Solution studies. These studies analyzed and integrated hydrologic, land conservation, open space and community demographic data to identify and prioritize locations throughout the Santa Monica Bay Watershed for their suitability for Green Solutions Project aimed at naturally cleaning polluted storm water runoff.

The SMBRC has given increasing priority to green infrastructure projects in allocation of the state bond funding (Prop. 50, 84). Examples of green infrastructure projects funded by these bonds include the Bicknell Green Street project in Santa Monica and the Downspout disconnection project in Los Angeles and Culver City, the construction of three rain gardens along the Ballona Creek, among others.

In FY12, the SMBRC also facilitated parkland management agencies to address the issues of parking lots as a potential source of pollutant loading. Staff have established collaborative

working relationship with these agencies to develop and implement parking lot retrofits with LID technologies in various parkland locations.

### Stream Restoration Program

Riparian habitat restoration is a relatively new initiative of the SMBRC and is addressed by several objectives in the newly undated BRP. With few natural streams remaining in the watershed due to increasing encroachment of urbanization, naturalization of flood control channels and daylighting of culverted streams become a high priority. SMBRC recognizes the difficulties and potential liabilities faced by local jurisdictions and, therefore, created a comprehensive Stream Restoration Program to assess the historical and current condition of stream system and associated aquatic habitats, facilitate development of stream protection policies, identify storm restoration opportunities, develop restoration designs and implement restoration projects. Tasks and activities carried out under this program included:

- Conducted a Stream Assessment and Restoration Design workshop. This three day workshop had a one-day intensive review of stream processes and issues, attended by 50 people, and an additional two days of field visits and design scenarios, attended by 30 people.
- Developed regional curves (hydrological models needed for restoration design) for the Santa Monica Bay subwatersheds.
- Drafted and facilitated stream protection ordinances for the City of Los Angeles.
- Facilitated a Greenway Subcommittee to identify priority stream restoration sites in the Ballona Creek watershed.
- Funded and conducted the Stone Creek restoration project on UCLA campus. Organized volunteer veg pulling and re-planting days at restoration site on UCLA and adjacent elementary school campus. More than 1000 volunteers donated more than 4000 hours of time to help restore Creek.
- Worked with State Parks staff to develop a plan to remove steelhead barriers on Arroyo Sequit Creek and later funded the barrier removal project. Allocated Prop. 84 funding for the project.
- Funded and completed historical ecology and water budget studies which identified historical stream locations and flows in the Ballona Creek watershed.
- Facilitate completion of the Rindge Dam removal feasibility study
- Worked with L.A. County Beaches and Harbors to develop traffic analyses and concept plans for a new entrance to Zuma Beach. One of the current entrances displaces a large section of Zuma Creek. Staff would like to develop and implement a plan that removes the road from the streambed while providing access to the parking lot in an environmentally appropriate manner.
- Led effort to address the environmental damage caused by invasive species. Conducted and reported on the result of the semi-annual mudsnail infestation surveys in the Northern Bay watershed

*Facilitation of comprehensive watershed management and restoration*

Throughout this grant reporting period, The SMBRC carried out a wide-array of projects/activities ranging from studies aimed at advancing understanding of the basic hydrological and ecological characteristics of the watershed, to restoration planning and design, baseline monitoring and surveys, on-the-ground restoration projects including

- ARRA Rain Gardens – Initiated Grant, conducted stakeholder outreach, worked with adjacent commercial property owners, developed project designs, conducted preliminary soil analyses, and received necessary permit and permissions.
- Ballona Greenway Plan – Finalized Ballona Creek Greenway Master Plan Ballona Historical Ecology Study – The study was completed which included digitized and georectified historical data archive, land use history map and timeline, map of historical wetlands and riparian areas.
- Ballona Water Budget – The study was completed which provided information on the movement of water through the Ballona Watershed and selected monitoring sites.
- Ballona Watershed Project Mapping – A website was constructed which provides an interactive online map and descriptions of water quality and habitat projects in the Ballona Watershed, with ability for public to submit their projects for inclusion in the database.
- Completed feasibility study of Countywide funding sources for water quality improvement.
- Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program – Worked with City of Culver City and completed a rainwater harvesting program.
- Invasive species database – Completed the SMB Invasive species database that will be available on line once new website is complete.
- Developed and implemented a work plan for updating priority projects in the South Bay area.
- Continued to provide leadership and coordinate the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force (BCWTF) stakeholder meetings.
- Conducted a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) Planning Workshop The workshop focused on training resource managers on how to develop plans to prevent the introduction and spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. SMBRC staff also produced a information packet consisting of fact sheets and guides on aquatic invasive species, including nine species posing high-level of threat to the watershed.
- Completed the three-year Ballona Creek Watershed Coordinator program.
- Co-sponsored and facilitated the AOE's Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- Working with City of LA to explore restoration opportunities and design for Grand Canal.

### Inter-agency coordination and involvement.

Throughout this grant reporting period, the SMBRC continued to maintain and expand inter-agency coordination and involvement of stakeholders to address a broad range of issues important to advance the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan.

In general – Staff responded to state and local agency inquiries regarding SMBRC activities, governing board and executive committee issues, and status of governing board membership. Staff also advised local governments regarding SMBRC funding opportunities that match local government projects. In addition, staff followed, and/or participated meetings of various governmental agencies, Committees/Subcommittees, and Task Forces, such as the State Ocean Protection Council, the State and Regional Water Board meetings, the SWRCB Clean Beach Task Force meetings, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Wetland Managers Group (WMG), the Fish and Game Commission hearing and its Marine Resources Subcommittee meetings, the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative Advisory Panel meetings, the COSEE-West Advisory Board, and others.

SMBRC staff– Participated on multi-agency committee to review grant applications received under the Prop 84 Urban Greening grant program. Staff attended State-wide workshops, and conducted site visits throughout the state for the grant program.

Staff also continued to work with local Congressional staff to develop a House Member Organization to coordinate interest and efforts among federal legislators regarding watershed-related projects and issues.

### The Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies (CSMBS)

Established in 2008, the Center is a formal partnership between Loyola Marymount University and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation. Research conducted by the Center focuses on Santa Monica Bay and other urban coastal areas and has included undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities throughout the region. Current research efforts focus on offshore rocky reefs and biological monitoring in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. In addition, SMBRF staff serves as faculty within the Seaver College of Science and Engineering and provides lectures and presentations to other departments.

In 2011, the Center joined the LMU Sustainability Committee and worked with LMU facilities on a sustainability plan for the campus. As part of this initiative, SMBRF staff designed a low-water-use native plant garden and a vegetable garden, and installed a cistern and rain garden that captures water from roofs on campus, stores it for irrigation, and infiltrates surplus water into the ground, reducing runoff and conserving water. The garden is now a living laboratory for the biology department at LMU as well as a beautiful and productive garden for the students and faculty to enjoy.



### Climate Ready Estuary Project

In 2010, the SMBRC applied and accepted as a participant of the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) Program. With a grant support provided by the CRE, the SMBRC partnered with the Loyola Marymount University and the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action (LARC) to conduct a project that investigated climate change effects under different modeling scenarios in a highly urbanized coastal watershed and wetland (Ballona Creek watershed and Ballona Wetlands), using a high-resolution localized modeling tool. The modeling results provide valuable lessons for other climate change adaptation efforts and serve as basis to recommend adaptive management strategies to wetlands managers and recommend changes to coastal policies.

### **3. Outreach to the public and policy-makers about the state of Santa Monica Bay, the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, and the ways the public can help improve the ecological health of the Bay**

#### Implementation of the new SMBRC outreach strategy

Around the beginning of this grant reporting period, the SMBRC started implementation of the new Communications Strategy with adoption and use of the new organization logo and regular publication of the Baywire electronic newsletter. SMBRC also developed and published for the first time an annual report of the Commission. The publication of the annual report has continued throughout the grant period.

Meanwhile, staff continued to utilize the existing mechanisms to keep stakeholders informed the SMBRC's activities, including publication of the SMBRC's Baywire and Annual Report. Staff also continued to carry out outreach to Congressional staff on the local and DC level regarding SMBRC programs within congressional districts, with emphasis on establishing partnerships among Congressional members to support project funding and awareness. SMBRC also strengthened its outreach efforts to a broader audience, especially the media and communities. Staff has contributed articles and commentaries to the local media and held/participated in more community events. Major outreach initiatives and events included:

- Urban Coast Journal – The Inaugural issue was launched in November 2009 during a well-attended reception. Two additional issues have been published in the following years. This multidisciplinary journal provides a much-needed forum to highlight research that informs the most pressing issues of our day and policies that affect the condition of urban coastal resources.
- State of the Bay Conference – Held on January 13, 2010 with more than 200 participants learning and discussing a broad range of Bay-related topics
- Website – A reevaluation and redesign of the website was done in coordination with the Taproot Pro Bono team.
- Local and national conferences – Five staff members attended and gave presentations at the CWO Conference in September 2010. Staff organized, moderated, and presented during a session on restoring Santa Monica Bay through ecosystem-based management: making the land-sea connection. Staff also attended and gave presentations at various other local and national conferences.

### Wetland Restoration Outreach

Ballona Wetlands Outreach: Staff hosted monthly Open Houses at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The program also participated in two local Farmer's Markets per month for Ballona Wetlands Restoration Program and SMBRC outreach. Outreach materials were distributed (e.g. tee shirts, stickers, and website material), including a bi-monthly Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project and Watershed e-newsletter. Several articles were also published in local newspapers about the monitoring program, including one Marina del Rey Patch, one Culver City Patch, one LA Times, one Loyolan, and two Argonaut articles.

Additionally, the Outreach Program continued building relationships and programs with other community organizations involved in the Ballona Creek Watershed and Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Co-hosted several educational events including nature tours and birding walks in collaboration with the Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Playa Vista, Playa Vista Discovery Park, Loyola Marymount University, the Center for Urban Resilience and Ecological Solutions (CURES), Ballona Freshwater Marsh, and the Playa Vista Farmers' Market.

Malibu Lagoon restoration outreach: Staff attended numerous meetings with stakeholders to discuss and clarify the project; conducted interviews with media; provided letters to editors of local papers and blogs; produced an informational video and website to disseminate facts about the restoration project; and responded to inquiries from elected officials, agency staff and members of the public.

### Boater Education Program

Staff continued to manage the Southern California Boater Education and Outreach Program, targeting boating communities in all major harbors from Santa Barbara to San Diego counties. Implementation of the program focused on preventing boat sewage and used oil discharges into marinas, coastal waters and lakes throughout southern California. Staff used three main outreach and education strategies including conducting direct outreach, offering technical assistance, and utilizing key partnerships. Highlights of the program included expanding Honey Pot Day to include Marina del Rey and the two boating regions in the Port of Los Angeles, producing the Southern California's Boater's Guide, 3rd Edition, and completing the Statewide Boater Survey. Major continuous activities of the program are summarized below.

- Bilge pad exchange – Continued to manage locations in Marina del Rey and Long Beach harbors.
- Dockwalker Program – Worked with California Coastal Commission, Department of Boating and Waterways, and boating groups to conduct volunteer training and distribute an e-newsletter to volunteers.
- Changing Tide Newsletter – Coordinated development, layout, editing (SMBRF staff served as lead editor and graphic designer), and printing of the newsletter.
- Honey Pot Day – coordinated educational presentations with marinas and individual boaters in Marina del Rey and Port of Los Angeles harbors. Educated and pumped sewage from vessels for a total of 229 boaters over the summer boating season (June

1st, 2010 - September 30th, 2010). Made 41 presentations throughout the Honey Pot Day program.

- Pumpout Station Monitoring - Continued to conduct monthly monitoring of Southern California sewage pumpouts, continued to work on creating an End of the Year summary of results for marina managers and program partners, and worked on creating visit postcard for monitoring event.
- Southern California Boater's Guide – Updated information of Southern California harbors and marinas, photos, environmental services such as location of public pumpout facilities and oil absorbent exchange centers. Produced 7,500 of the Guides.
- Southern California Tidebooks – Updated the Tidebooks on annual basis.
- Statewide Boater Survey – Worked with San Francisco State University's Public Research Institute (PRI) to complete the statewide boater survey and the survey analysis report.
- California Clean Boating Network – Worked on Southern California CCBN meeting to highlight success of Honey Pot Day Program.

#### Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Mini-grant Program

The Public Involvement and Education (PIE) mini-grants program is one of SMBRC's most popular programs. For over more than a decade, the PIE program has provided seed money to more than 50 recipients for more than 80 projects. These projects has been a catalyst for innovative and engaging outreach in our watershed and through them, the SMBRC raises awareness of local environmental issues and inspire the stewardship needed to protect the health of our waters and our communities.

Two new rounds of PIE program were launched and completed during this grant reporting period. Work involved both solicitation of project proposals and management of the on-going projects. Staff also produced and distributed informational brochure about the PIE program to solicit additional funding sources and promote the program, and presented outstanding PIE projects at local and national conferences. Successfully completed PIE projects during this time period include:

##### Round 8

- Coeur d'Alene's Rain Garden project
- The Aquarium of the Pacific's Watershed Classroom Scholars program
- LVMWD's Water Conservation Fair project
- Heal the Bay's Speaker's Bureau Update project
- SEA Lab's Camp Scholars program

##### Round 9

- The City of Manhattan Beach's Drought Tolerant Garden Demo project
- South Bay Surfrider's Waste Characterization Study project
- Marina del Rey Angler's Youth Fishing and Environmental Education program
- The County of LA (Department of Beaches & Harbors)'s Clean Harbors program
- The LA Conservation Corps' SEA Lab Plankton or Plastic program

### *Restaurant Certification Program*

The SMBRC initiated the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program in 2008 in order to help beach communities address a significant potential source of pollution – local restaurants. The Certification Program is a collaborative partnership between local agencies, businesses, and consumers and advocates environmental stewardship and helps cities meet TMDL requirements by preventing pollution from restaurants. It is currently participated by seven cities and an average total of 300 restaurants.

The program provides and display certification from the Commission for restaurants that meet storm water BMP requirements. General outreach of the program to all target groups included distribution of a Program brochure, media coverage, development of a media/outreach/promotion/advertising strategy, initiation of a Facebook page, promotion through related non-profit groups like the Malibu Surfing Association's newsletter, the South Bay Storm water Group, etc.

Staff has also made effort for expansion and continuous improvement to program, including the further development of a marketing/advertising/media plan, and initial discussions and development of a partnership with Surfrider, Algalita, and local science teachers. An introduction to the program and ideas for hands-on involvement of students was presented in three schools to eight science classes/clubs. Expansion efforts also included the initial proposal for expansion (as contracted service) of the program to Pismo Beach, a potential partner city outside of our watershed.

### *Coastal Cleanup Day*

SMBRC has coordinated Staff coordinated the Marina del Rey in-water site for Coastal Cleanup Day five-year in a row and will continue to do so in the future. Over the five years during the grant reporting periods, more than 600 volunteers participated and collected several hundred pounds of marine debris by kayaking throughout the Marina. All staff participated and many partners and donors contributed to the effort.

### *Seafood Contamination Risk Communication*

During this reporting period SMBRC staff continued to actively participate in the two main components of EPA's PV Shelf sediment contamination remediation program. Under the institutional control component of the program, staff continued to participate in the message group of the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC) and helped the FCEC developed a tip card and a pier signs for communicating the new fish consumption advisories by issued by OEHHA. As part of the on-site remediation planning component, in response to recommendations from SMBRC staff, EPA initiated effort to conduct a seafood consumption study in Santa Monica Bay. Staff participated in the advisory group set up by EPA to review workplan, RFPs, and survey forms, etc., developed for the seafood consumption study and continue to help overseeing the implementation of the study.

#### **4. Monitor and assess the effectiveness of BRP implementation, both in terms of management actions and environmental improvements**

##### *Implementation of the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program.*

The Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program (CMP) completed in 2007 represents the SMBRC's plan for implementing coordinated monitoring to provide a regional, long-term picture of the status of the various ecosystems in Santa Monica Bay, which are essential information needed to track, assess, and report on the environmental results of BRP implementation. The CMP specifies detailed monitoring designs for broad ecosystem components, each of which coordinates both existing and new monitoring and explicitly links indicator selection, sampling design, and intended data products that focus on specific scientific and management questions. In addition, the CMP includes an implementation plan that suggests how each design element of the Program could be funded through a combination of cooperative agreements, offsets to current compliance monitoring programs, and the pursuit of grant funding from a range of sources.

SMBRC staff continued to facilitate the implementation of the comprehensive monitoring program with the focus of its effort on coordinated regional rocky subtidal and wetland habitat monitoring and the development of regional comprehensive MPA monitoring program. Meanwhile, following publication of the 2010 State of the Bay report, staff has begun working with the TAC to identify topics for the 2015 State of the Bay Report, identify possible indicators, and compile the data streams. Staff also compiled and reviewed environmental indicators and indices developed/used by other NEPs, conducted literature search and review on habitat health index development with a focus on past and existing efforts in Southern California and developed issue paper on development of habitat health indices in Santa Monica Bay.

To ensure that comprehensive monitoring be incorporated into the NPDES Permit of Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant which is up for renewal this year, staff held meetings and discussion with LARWQCB staff and provided testimony at EPA/LARWQCB hearing on the proposed monitoring requirement under the renewed permit.

Several research and assessment projects were initiated and/or completed during the grant reporting period for filling data gaps identified by the CMP. These projects included:

- *Rocky reef survey and assessment* – A comprehensive survey of rocky reef habitats in the Bay using CRANE protocol in conjunction with the Bight 08 Project - Completed.
- *Marine mammals and seabirds study* - A study on the ecology and foraging behavior of marine mammals (dolphins and pinnipeds) and seabirds in the Bay – Completed.
- *Eelgrass bed monitoring and assessment* – Participated in the Southern California Eelgrass Monitoring Program to assist federal partner (NOAA) and other local agencies in assessment of offshore eelgrass beds in Santa Monica Bay – Continuing.

- *Wetland baseline monitoring* – See discussion on Ballona Wetland Restoration Planning above.
- *MPA Monitoring* – See MPA discussion above

### *BRP Implementation Tracking, Assessment, and Reporting*

***State of the Bay Report and Conference*** - An important function and responsibility of the SMBRC, and a specific goal of the Federal NEP, is to report to the general public on the environmental condition of the Bay and its watershed. One important form of reporting for this purpose is a comprehensive “State of the Bay” report. The latest one, State of the Bay 2010 was completed and published in January 2010. The 2010 State of the Bay Report was designed to be a companion document to the newly updated Bay Restoration Plan. The specific information in the 2010 Report on the status and trends in water quality and the health of the Bay’s habitats and resources provided a clear reference point from which the SMBRC can gauge progress toward the implementation of the BRP. The report also for the first time provided an assessment for all major type of habitats in Santa Monica Bay and the assessments were presented graphically on a standardized, easy to understand scale. In conjunction with the report’s publication, the SMBRC held a State of the Bay Conference on January 13, 2010 to present and discuss findings from the report.

Significant amount of staff time and efforts were devoted to development of the State of the Bay report and preparation of the State of the Bay Conference. Staff interacted with the TAC extensively via conference calls and meetings over two years to develop various sections of the report, researched and gathered monitoring data and reports from other organizations and conducted data analysis for incorporation into the State of the Bay report.

***Habitat Health Index Development*** - After publication of the 2010 report, staff immediately began preparation for publication of the next report in 2015, staff continued to work with the TAC to identify additional data needs and data sources. Staff and the TAC also took a new initiative to develop a more robust and objective index that can be used to standardize the assessment and reporting for all habitats, so that future reports on the state of the Bay will be more concrete, less controversial, and easier to write. Several steps have been taken by the TAC and staff in supporting and facilitating habitat health index development. The TAC invited and heard a series of presentations on the existing efforts and status of index development as well as applications for all major habitats in Santa Monica Bay. Building upon information from these presentations and further internal review and research, staff developed a white paper which summarized indicators and indices used by other NEPs around the country and evaluated the feasibility of developing and using system-wide index in Santa Monica Bay. And finally in 2012, an index framework for major habitats in the Bay was drafted, presented, and discussed by the TAC.

Concurrently with the system-wide index development effort, SMBRC also took initiative to jumpstart or support existing efforts for developing habitat-specific indices with the aim to incorporate them into the system-wide index in the future. These efforts included:

- *Rocky intertidal habitat index* - Worked with SCCWRP and re-jumpstarted the existing project for developing a Southern California rocky intertidal habitat index. SMBRC helped to fund compilation and analysis of existing rocky intertidal monitoring data and organization of a workshop in Spring of 2012 to use the compiled data for index development.
- *Sandy intertidal habitat index* - Worked with Pepperdine University researchers and initiated a beach metric workgroup to jumpstart discussion on development of a health index for sandy intertidal habitat. The group has made headway in identifying key stressors and indicators of beach ecology.
- *Pelagic ecosystem health index* - Worked with USC researchers and initiated a project to evaluate the feasibility of a health index for pelagic ecosystem. The project involves compilation of relevant data sets, review of other existing indices, and recommendation on steps to develop a pelagic index for Santa Monica Bay.
- *Wetland assessment index* – See EPA Wetland Development grant monitoring project above.

***BRP Implementation Tracking*** - A major assessment of BRP implementation was conducted during the 2008 BRP update process. The results of the assessment were summarized in a BRP Check-up document. More updated BRP implementation progress was also compiled and incorporated in the 2010 State of the Bay report.

Staff also developed an integrated, customized Access database, with searching and report generating functions that can be used to track progress on all objectives and milestones of the updated BRP.

To ensure that meaningful monitoring data are collected and used to assess the effectiveness of capital projects with bond-funding provided by the SMBRC, staff and the TAC worked together and developed a monitoring framework to guide the design of monitoring plans for future bond-funded projects.

In 2008, SMBRC completed and passed EPA-required Implementation Review. During the review process, staff prepared document that discussed progress in implementing CCMP actions; role of stakeholders in CCMP implementation; status of environmental monitoring program; environmental results and trends; tracking systems; and CCMP financing.

Staff also compiled and submitted to EPA on annual basis leveraged fund and habitat protected acreage information through the NEPORT system. The information compiled in the NEPORT reporting system show that over the five-year period between 2007 and 2011 (data for 2012 is not available at the due date of this report), the hard work of SMBRC resulted in the leverage of more than \$60 million and protection and restoration of approximately 1,500 acres of habitats in the Santa Monica Bay NEP program area (Table 4).

**Table 4. Total amount of leveraged funds and protected/restored habitat acreage (2007-2011)**

Year	Leveraged \$\$	Habitat	
		Acres	Linear Miles
2007	\$2,639,094	81	0.5
2008	\$17,654,192	849	0
2009	\$19,828,256	26.8	0
2010	\$16,101,377	422.2	0
2011	\$5,391,023	114.8	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61,613,942</b>	<b>1493.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>

## **5. Improve the institutional mechanisms and program management of the Santa Monica Bay NEP**

### General GB support, organizational management and reporting

Staff continued with basic HR and accounting tasks as well as preparation of agenda and staff reports for Executive Committee, Governing Board, and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Staff also coordinated Foundation board meetings, including agenda preparation, staff report organization, etc. Other related activities include,

- Developed, adopted, and periodically updated the Foundation employee handbook.
- Developed SMBRC operations handbook for Governing Board members and other interested parties. Includes information and diagrams of Commission operations as well as its relationship to other local and state entities
- Adopted the new TAC structure and roles and responsibilities. The major tasks of the TAC will include building on our indicator work, overseeing the next State of the Bay Report and developing the Bay Journal.
- Consolidated all NEP activities under the SMBRF and the SWRCB grant.
- Developed a proposal for restructuring the existing Technical Advisory Committee.
- Restructured and streamlined the format of SMBRC's work plan to allow for greater accountability and more meaningful progress tracking.
- Ensured on-time submission of all progress reports, financial status reports, and payment requests.

Prior to 2009, the SMBRF completed annual financial review by an outside, independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm. The Foundation was found to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles every time. After several years of financial



reviews and the SMBRF began to conduct annual audit in 2009, all three annual audits since 2009 have noted no significant areas of concern.

Facing increased public scrutiny, staff responded to many public record requests regarding the governing and organization structure, as well as operating procedures of the SMBRC. Staff also conducted historical document search and compilation in response to the public record requests. Worked with State Water Resources Control Board legal council, an amendment to the SMBRC MOU was drafted and adopted by the Governing Board at its meeting in October 2011. The amendment corrected provisions in the MOU that have proven to be unwieldy, confusing, or outdated, and encouraged active participation in SMBRC activities through expanding the Governing Board's scope and voting membership.

#### NEP Activities

The Executive Director and staff attended Fall NEP Directors meeting in Washington DC and other NEP locations and participated in discussion on shared vision for the ANEP-EPA partnership, NEP future program and policy priorities, and ways to improve communication and performance evaluation.

The Executive Director Shelley Luce represented the NEPs at an experts roundtable meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for a National Ocean Policy in DC. Shelley submitted a white paper on NEP governance to the Task Force. Shelley also drafted technical comments on the proposed National Ocean Policy and worked with other California NEPs to finalize and submit them jointly to the Task Force at their San Francisco listening session.

The SMBRC hosted the 2011 fall NEP Directors meeting in Santa Monica Bay. Staff secured venues and organized field trips and other meeting-related activities.